TOWNHALL Q&A

with Chuck Ingoglia Joe Parks Reyna Taylor Linda Henderson-Smith

> NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

COVID-19 Information & Resources Directory

https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/covid19/



- **Goal:** Help members during COVID-19 by creating a regularly updated repository of internal and external resources.
 - Deliver the latest COVID-19 news
 - Connect providers with new tools and resources
 - Share available learning opportunities

First-ever Hill Day at Home and Virtual Policy Institute



<u>Register Today</u>

Tuesday, June 23, 12 – 4 PM ET

- Matt Salo, Executive Director, National Association of Medicaid
- Director Jim Carroll, White House Office of National Drug Control
- Representative David Trone (D-MD)
- Senator John Cornyn (R-TX)
- Breakouts on telehealth, parity and health inequity

Wednesday, June 24

- Series of digital advocacy events
- Film Screening, Panel 2:00 3:30

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Office Hours: Thursday, June 11 from 1-2 p.m. ET



Health Equity and COVID-19 - Promoting Organizational and Self-care Strategies for African Americans

Join us to discuss the ways allies can create courageous spaces to support African American staff and colleagues and how to build in organizational training and support mechanisms to establish responsive workplaces.





Tips for the Times

Show	Communicate	Recognize	Encourage	Check in
Show empathy and be available:	Stay connected with communication and meeting tools:	Recognize the impacts of current events:	Encourage self-care:	Check in with Work Life Solutions services:
Understand that employees are likely feeling overwhelmed / anxious about circumstances related to the virus AND the social unrest.	Options like WebEx or Teams for regular check-ins and to allow individuals to connect with one another "face-to-face."	Be aware of significant changes in your team member's personality or work product, it may be a sign that a person is struggling.	This is a great time to encourage employees to take time to care for themselves.	Include all relevant website links and phone numbers for both the Work Life Solutions and health plans in employee communication

COVID-19 Telehealth Flexibilities

- Wide-ranging authority given to states for Medicaid flexibilities
- Increased opportunities for certain providers to bill Medicare, including some audio-only services
- DEA has loosened some restrictions for prescribing via telehealth

What's Next?

- Collecting data from our members to inform policy recommendations
- Urging agencies to evaluate impact of policy changes to inform future direction
- Advocating for smooth ramp to transition back to in-person care following pandemic

Congressional Response Since Shutdown

CARES Act (COVID 3.0)

- Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)
- Public Health and Social Services
 Emergency Relief Fund
- \$425 million to SAMHSA
- Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (COVID 3.5)
 - \$484 billion in spending
 - Replenished the PPP and PHSSEF
 - No relief for PPP loans to nonprofits 500+

- HEROES Act (House-passed COVID 4.0)
 - \$3 trillion in spending
 - Further funds PHSSEF, PPP loans (extends PPP and adds flexibility)
 - \$3 billion to SAMHSA funding

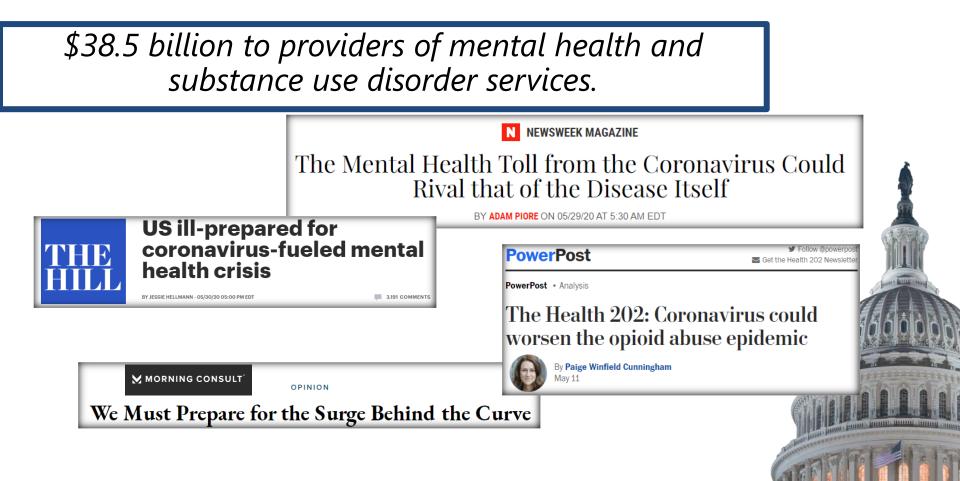
• Senate Action on COVID 4.0

- Has not taken up the HEROES Act
- Preliminary discussions around PPP modifications

Public Health and Social Services Emergency Relief Fund

- HHS distributed funds from the \$175B, largely to providers who received Medicare fee-for-service payments in 2019 and 2018
- Tens of billions of dollars remain unallocated
 - June 3, 2020 the Chairs and Ranking Members of the committees of jurisdiction sent a letter to the Secretary of HHS asking for a dedicated distribution to Medicaid-dependent providers
 - June 9, 2020 HHS and HRSA announced \$25B for safety net providers, including \$15B for Medicaid and CHIP providers – National Council voiced strong objection to exclusions for providers that have received <u>any</u> Medicare funding

Our Advocacy Ask



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